



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VA AWARDS \$113 MILLION FOR CALIFORNIA VETERANS HOMES

To ensure that California's veterans have quality health care, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) has awarded the state a grant of \$113 million to construct veterans homes in West Los Angeles, Ventura and Lancaster. With these funds in place, California has the green light to begin construction on schedule in July of this year of the West Los Angeles, Lancaster and Ventura veterans homes.

A previously scheduled groundbreaking ceremony for the West Los Angeles veterans home will be rescheduled for a later date. The groundbreaking ceremonies for the Lancaster and Ventura veterans homes will take place as follows:

LANCASTER
Tuesday
June 12, 2007
9:00 a.m.
3101 West Avenue I
Lancaster, CA

VENTURA
Wednesday
June 13, 2007
9:00 a.m.
10900 Telephone Road
Ventura, CA

"We are very appreciative of the USDVA's grant and look forward to more federal-state partnerships to benefit and improve the lives of California's veterans," said California Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson. "Our state's veterans have lobbied long and hard for more veterans homes and their efforts are now becoming a reality. With construction of these three veterans homes beginning this July, the dream of many veterans will be fulfilled."

The USDVA grant covers approximately 65 percent of the allowable costs. The USDVA's \$113.5 million is a partial award. USDVA officials expect to award an additional \$66.3 million in future budget years, creating a total USDVA award of \$179.8 million. California's portion for constructing these three veterans homes in Southern California is \$119.8 million. The total cost for constructing these three veterans homes is projected to be approximately \$299.6 million.

"This grant honors our commitment to care for the men and women of California who have served in uniform," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. "Our federal-state partnership helps to provide housing for California veterans in a caring community."

In addition to the veterans homes in West Los Angeles, Lancaster, and Ventura, California will construct

veterans homes in Fresno and Redding. Once all five veterans homes are constructed, California will be able to provide approximately 966 additional beds to the state's disabled and older veterans.

The West Los Angeles veterans home will provide 396 beds, while the veterans homes in Ventura and Lancaster will each provide 60 beds for Residential Care for the Elderly and be able to provide Adult Day Health Care for up to 50 veterans.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs has an annual department operating budget of approximately \$300 million, a Farm and Home Loan program with assets of about \$2.2 billion, and roughly 1,600 employees statewide. The department provides outreach to veterans reentering civilian life after having answered America's call to military service, by helping them claim their earned veterans benefits, provides low-cost loans to acquire homes and farms, and when the time comes, provides aged and disabled veterans rehabilitative, residential, and medical care and services in home-like environments at the California Veterans Homes.

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Note to editors: This news release and previous CDVA news for veterans, news releases, and advisories are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov.